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Serial No. 10/729,417
Wakefield, et al.
Filed December 5, 2003

Response to Office Action
Examiner: Phuong Thao Cao
Group Art Unit: 2164

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTORS: Todd D. Wakefield and David L. Bean
TITLE: Methods and Products for Integrating Mixed Format Data
FILING DATE: December 5, 2003 **EXAMINER NAME:** Phuong Thao Cao
SERIAL NO.: 10/729,417 **GROUP ART UNIT:** 2164
DOCKET: 5130 P

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Amendment and Claims Listing

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended) 1. A computer program product located to one or more storage media devices usable to perform integration of mixed format data, said computer program product comprising instructions executable by a computer to perform the functions of:

accessing a database on computer-readable storage media containing data records, at least some data records containing both of structured data and unstructured data, the unstructured data including free text that has information relatable to the structured data contained in the same data record where the particular free text is found; the structured data comprising a set of data tuples;

accessing a source of unstructured data, the unstructured data including free text relatable to the data tuples of the structured data;

using linguistic information contained in the free text to extract multi-dimensional relational facts from the free text, each multi-dimensional relational fact including a plurality of attributes concerning the free text from which it was extracted;

producing interpreting the free text to produce a set of construed data of said multi-dimensional relational facts reflecting at least one relational fact conveyed in the free text, each construed datum

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relatable to a data tuple of the structured data from the same data record that the free text originated from;
and

integrating the produced data with the data tuples of the structured data on computer-readable
storage media.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended) 4. A computer program product according to claim 1, wherein said instructions are further executable to perform the function of applying caseframes in extracting relational facts from while performing said interpreting of the free text.

Claim 5 (currently amended) 5. A computer program product according to claim 1, wherein said instructions are further executable to perform the function of producing a new database containing the integrated data produced by said integrating.

Claim 6 (currently amended) 6. A computer program product according to claim 1, wherein said instructions are further executable to perform the function of inserting the produced data into the database of structured data while performing said integrating step the produced data.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (original) 8. A computer program product according to claim 7, wherein the instructions are further executable to produce a new relational database containing the integrated data produced by said integrating.

Claim 9 (currently amended) 9. A computer program product according to claim 7, wherein the instructions are further executable to produce a file containing the integrated data produced by said integrating.

Claim 10 (original) 10. A computer program product according to claim 9, wherein the instructions are

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further executable to produce a file having a format selected from the group of XML (or XML-like), character separated values, spreadsheet formats and file-based database structures.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) 12. A computer program product according to claim 1, wherein the integrated data produced by the performance of said integrating the produced data includes reference information to the original free text for construed data.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) 14. A method for integrating mixed format data, comprising the steps of:

accessing a database on computer-readable storage media containing records of mixed structured data and unstructured data, the structured data comprising a set of data tuples, the unstructured data including free text that has information relatable to the structured data contained in the data record where the particular free text is found;

accessing a source of unstructured data, the unstructured data including free text relatable to the data tuples of the structured data;

using linguistic information contained in the free text to extract multi-dimensional relational facts from the free text, each multi-dimensional relational fact including a plurality of attributes concerning the free text;

interpreting the free text to produce a set of construed data reflecting at least one relational fact conveyed in the free text, each construed datum relatable to a data tuple of the structured data; and

producing a set of construed data of said multi-dimensional relational facts, each construed datum relatable to structured data from the same data record that the free text originated from; and

integrating the produced data with the data tuples of the structured data.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (currently amended) 17. A method according to claim 14, wherein said performing said

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interpreting the free text extracting applies caseframes.

Claim 18 (currently amended) 18. A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of producing a new database containing the integrated data produced by said integrating.

Claim 19 (original) 19. A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of inserting the produced data into the database of structured data.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (currently amended) 21. A method according to claim 18-20, wherein the new database is a relational database.

Claim 22 (currently amended) 22. A method according to claim 18-20, wherein the new database includes at least one file containing the integrated data produced by said integrating.

Claim 23 (original) 23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the new database has a format selected from the group of XML, character separated values, spreadsheet formats and file-based database structures.

Claim 24 (currently amended) 24. A method according to claim 14, wherein the integrated data produced by the performance of said integrating the produced data includes reference information to the original free text from which relational facts were extracted for construed data.

Claim 25 (new) 25. A computer program comprising executable instructions to perform the functions of:

accessing a database on computer-readable storage media containing records of mixed structured and unstructured data, the unstructured data including free text that has information related to the structured data,

using linguistic information contained in the free text to extract multi-dimensional relational facts from the free text, the relational facts relating to the structured data,

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producing a set of construed data from said multi-dimensional relational facts, and
integrating said construed data with said structured data and storing it on computer-
readable storage media.

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Respectfully submitted this 1st day of December, 2006.



Daniel P. McCarthy
Reg. No. 36,600
P.O. Box 71550
Salt Lake City, UT 84171-0550
Tel 801 661 8998
Fax 435 615 9669
Email: dmccart@xmission.com